| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0205  Responded to: 25 January 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How much money did your force spend on vetting new recruits from 6 April 2012 to 5 April 2013 (financial year)?

## How much money did your force spend on vetting new recruits from 6 April 2021 to 5 April 2022 (financial year)?

In response to these questions, I would advise you that Police Scotland has an in-house vetting team, which of course has an associated budget.   
However, the costs associated (for example salary costs) cover all vetting activities - recruitment vetting/ enhanced management vetting etc and also apply to police staff and contractors as well as officers.  
As such, section 17 of the Act applies and I can confirm that costs relating specifically to the recruitment vetting of police officers, is not held by Police Scotland.

## How many officers in your force have been vetted in the last 5 years?

The question has been interpreted to mean individuals applying to join Police Scotland as a police officer and serving officers who have undergone a higher level of vetting whilst in service.

Officers and staff who have undergone recruitment vetting are not currently required to have that clearance renewed during their service. You may however find a recent statement regarding vetting from Deputy Chief Constable Fiona Taylor QPM of interest: [Police Scotland statement on vetting checks of officers and staff - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2023/january/police-scotland-statement-on-vetting-checks-of-officers-and-staff/)

Since 19 January 2018, 5,559 individuals have been vetted for the role of police officer within Police Scotland.

2,927 serving police officers have undergone Management Vetting, a higher level of vetting, during this timeframe.

## How many officers do you have in total?

Please be advised that data regarding police officer numbers is publicly available:

[Police Scotland Officer Numbers - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/police-scotland-officer-numbers/)

As such, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

1. states that it holds the information,
2. states that it is claiming an exemption,
3. specifies the exemption in question and
4. states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at section 25(1) of the Act:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.